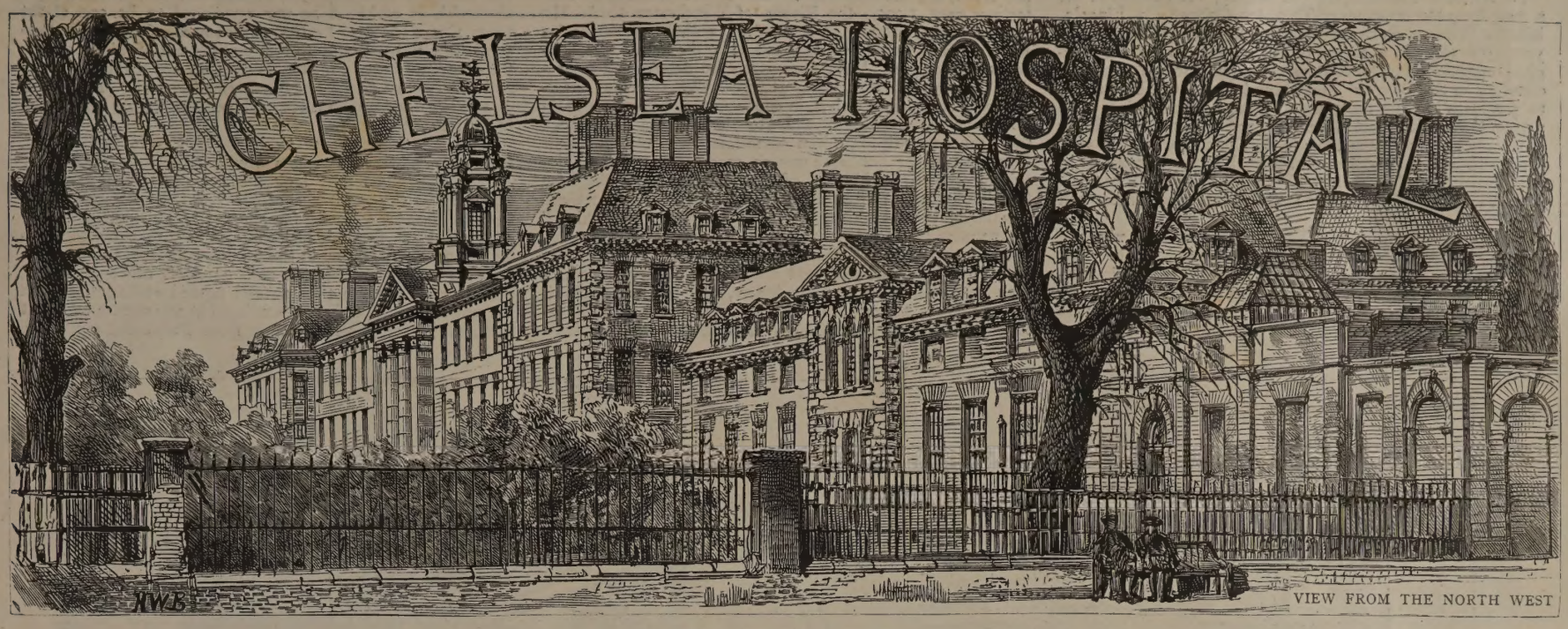


VIEW FROM THE NORTH WEST

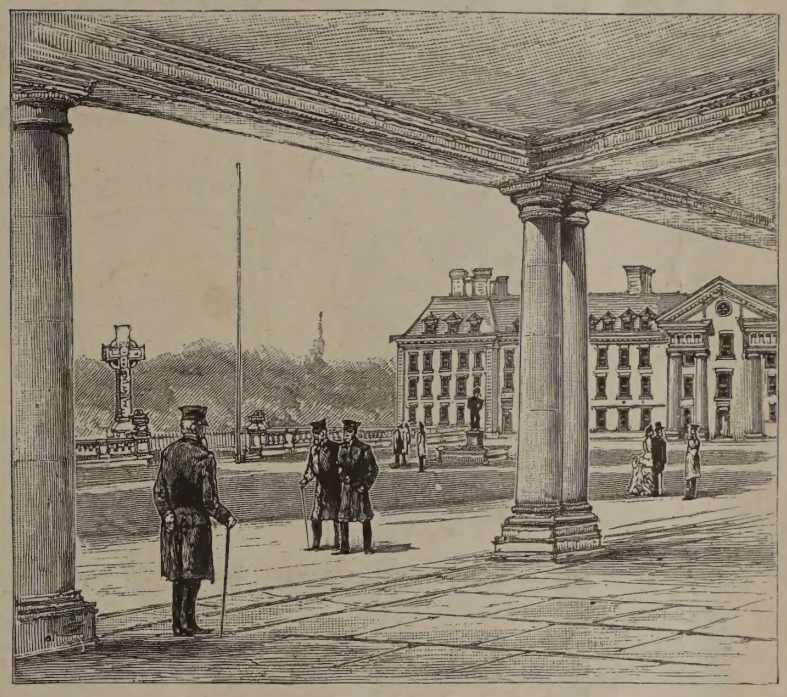
IN TWO PARTS—PART I.

"Charles the Second, by the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender "of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting: Whereas We doe intend "to erect an Hospital for the relief of such land Souldiers as are, or shall be, old, lame, or infirm "in ye service of the Crowne, and to endow the same with a Revenue suitable thereunto," &c., &c.

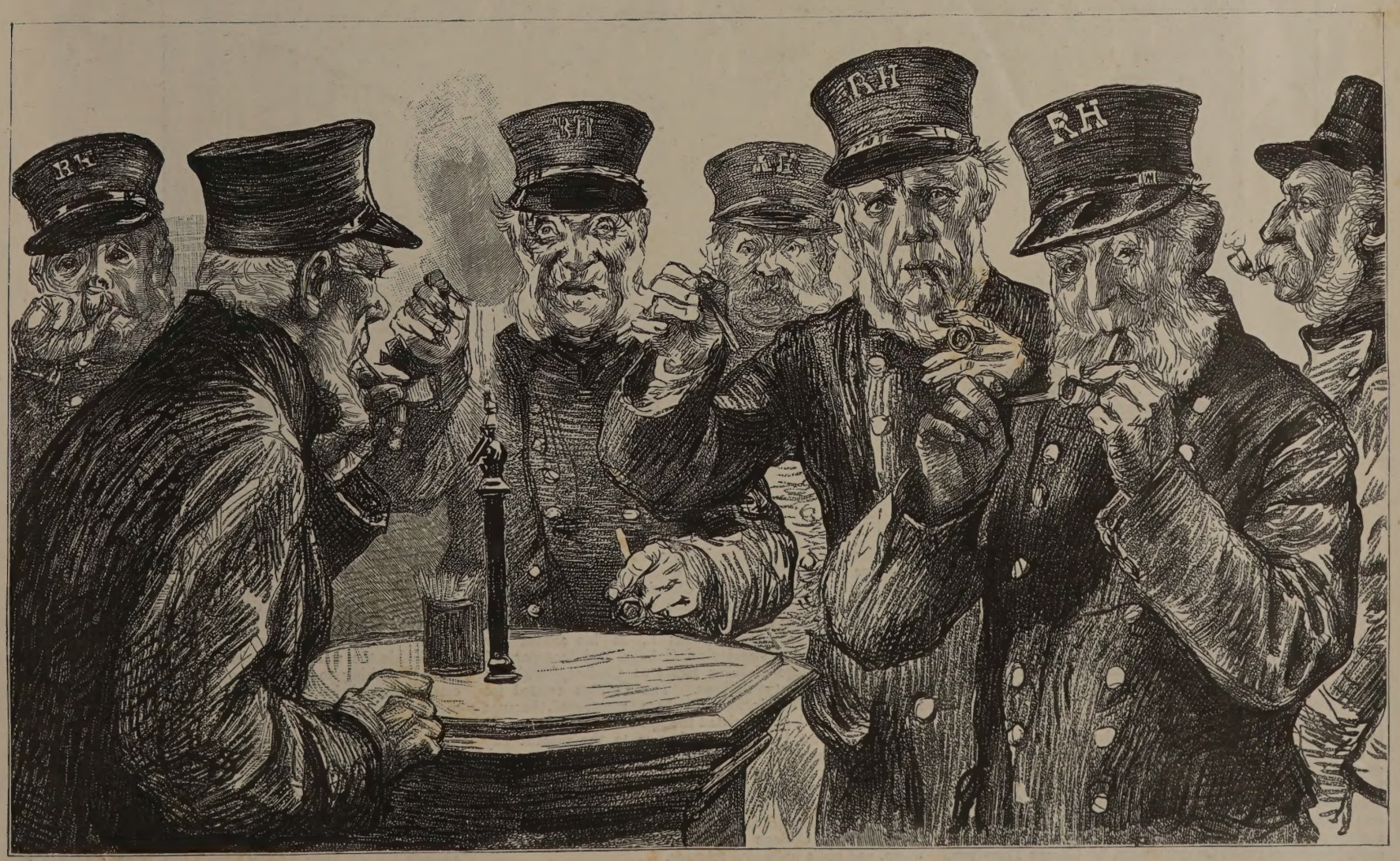
SUCH IS THE PREAMBLE with which the Merry Monarch, on the 22nd December, 1681, issued his Letters Patent under the Great Seal, appointing a Receiver-General to take charge of such sums in money as His Majesty's faithful subjects might be disposed to contribute in furtherance of his benevolent purpose to found a home for his veterans. No earlier official record of his design survives. For two hundred years Chelsea Hospital has been an honour to his name, and a source of pride to the nation. Not less than 20,000 picked veterans have closed their days peacefully under its roof, and probably 500,000 have ended their time subsisting on the pecuniary benefits of its out-pension. Its name may be said to be familiar the world over, for these out-pensioners have lived not only in every corner of our kingdom, but in the various colonies, and many foreign countries besides.

It will therefore be of interest, as an accompaniment to the sketches of the artist, to review the history of this Hospital, describe the object it fulfils, and give our readers—particularly those in distant places—some idea of its constitution and present condition.

The design of the King was not wholly original, but the merit of bringing it into action was his, and it was not adopted a day too soon. The sufferings of old soldiers were extreme in those times. Under the military tenure of the feudal ages neither the monarch nor the nation was responsible for the support of the maimed or the worn out. How they fared cannot now be known. On the loosening of the feudal system they were cast between two stools, and a long time elapsed before any definite or adequate provision came to be made for them. Their grievances became a scandal to the country. They exposed themselves on the highways to the charity or pity of the wayfarers. Instances of this are not few in contemporary records, but in the absence of the public Press, which in our days is only too ready to give utterance to even a quasi-grievance, the remedy took long to come. In the thirty-fifth year of Elizabeth's reign an Act was passed, and at succeeding intervals the effort was renewed, to abate the scandal by making old soldiers a charge on their respective parishes, but what between the difficulty of reaching those parishes in the absence of any facilities of locomotion, questions of disputed domicile—of which the poor in our time have known a good deal—and the neglect of parochial officials, the soldier had rarely justice done, and numbers preferred to haunt the metropolis, where the wealthy, and perhaps the King himself, or at least his favourites, might be moved in their regard. They were sometimes successful, for the "Domestic State Papers" contain instances such as, "Grant to Edward Lloyd of a pension of 12*d.* a day for life, in consideration



THE PIAZZA



PENSIONERS LIGHTING UP

of hurts and maims received in the wars," "Grant to Wm. Evans, a maimed soldier, of an Alms House in Durham," "To Richard Franklin, an old soldier, the pension of 6*l.* a year from the revenues of Thornton College, Co. Lincoln, held by William Roth, now deceased," and so on. In the year 1598 there is a record of "A license to erect a Hospital in Buckingham for thirty-six maimed unmarried soldiers dwelling in the town or Three Hundreds of Co. Bucks, and to purchase land for their maintenance not exceeding 200*l.* a year." Whether erected we know not. In 1651 the House of Commons gave instructions to the Council of State to take care that maimed soldiers be relieved, and to "consider of a healthful place" for their residence ("Commons' Journals," Vol. VII., page 655), but no action on such orders can be traced.

Nor is this surprising. The regular soldier was not growing in Parliamentary favour at a time when he most required it, and the worst was yet to come. On the disbandment of the Army, 50,000 men were at once thrown on the world, with the memory, as Lord Macaulay remarks, that "under their dominion the King had been murdered, the nobility degraded, the landed gentry plundered, the Church persecuted. There was scarcely a rural grandee who could not tell a story of wrongs and insults suffered by himself or his father at the hands of the Parliamentary soldiers."

On the restoration of Charles II. it was with great difficulty that he was enabled to form and maintain a small standing army, and after the lapse of twenty-five years, during which he and his successor had nursed and increased it, the numbers of all ranks only amounted to 7,000 foot and 1,700 horse soldiers, at a charge of 290,000*l.* a year. No non-effective charge existed, and no more money could be obtained. But we anticipate this date.

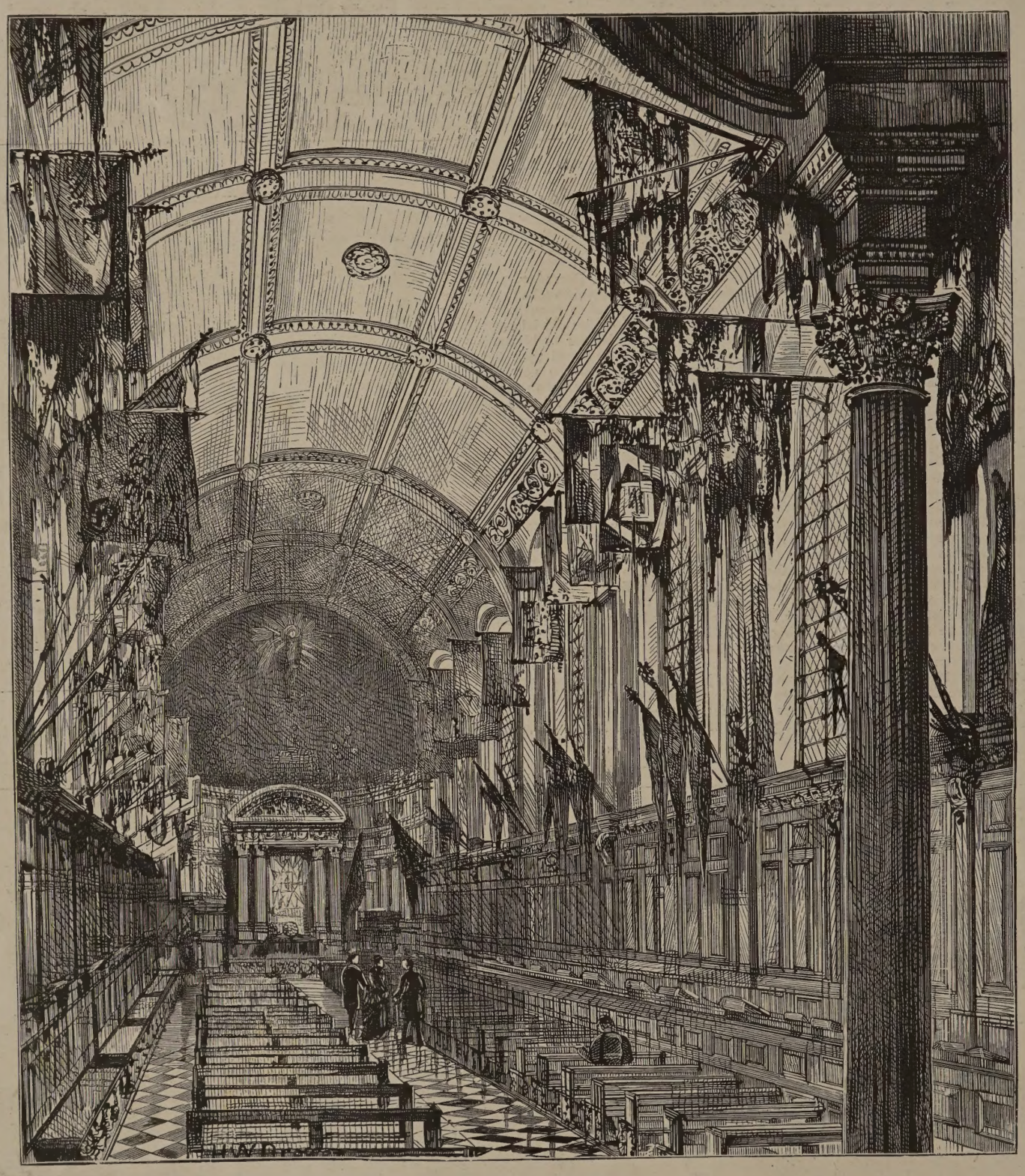
It was under discouraging circumstances such as these that the King undertook the task of founding a home for the scattered veterans by appealing to the public for voluntary aid. The appeal was not very successful, and it was repeated. But the response realised altogether sums not amounting to 20,000*l.* The donors at later periods received enhanced credit for generosity. Sir George Trevelyan, in his "Life of Charles Fox," states that Sir Stephen Fox gave (or at all events intended to give) 100,000*l.* He is stated elsewhere to have given 13,000*l.* The accounts are pre erved, and the sum was 1,300*l.* The Archbishop of Canterbury gave 1,000*l.*, the Bishop of Winchester 500*l.*, Mr. Tobias Rustat 1,000*l.* A sum of unapplied Secret Service Money, about 7,000*l.*, existed, and this the King added to the subscriptions. With these sums he determined to proceed, Sir Stephen Fox being charged with the chief supervision. This Minister has, in consequence, been often mentioned as the founder of the Hospital, and a silly story transfers the credit from him sometimes to a very different Court favourite; but there was no reason whatever for depriving the King himself of the merit of launching the foundation, and forwarding the erection during the three remaining years of his reign. He did one "wise thing," the popular adage notwithstanding.

The location of the Hospital was probably not a matter of much debate. Chelsea will always be a favourite place of ease and retirement for Londoners, but in those days it was the haunt *par excellence* of every one of name, and particularly of those about the Court. A modern writer has pleasingly described it as the Village of Palaces, which it truly was. King Henry VIII. erected a Palace there, in dangerous proximity to his Chancellor, and the Stuart Kings much esteemed the suburb and the pleasant drive of a couple of miles through green meadows gently sloping towards the river. Here James I., in his ardour for polemics, erected a Theological College, and incorporated it as the "College of King James at Chelsea," with its Provost and twenty Fellows. The College existed for thirty years. The incident is here mentioned, because Chelsea Hospital appropriated the site of this College, and its name in part, being locally known to the present day as "The College."

On the dissolution of the College, Charles II. granted its site of twenty-eight acres to his new Royal Society; but the Society failed to utilise it, and sold it to Sir Stephen Fox for the sum of 1,300*l.*, for the purposes of the new Hospital. The Divinity College building had already been taken down, and not a trace of it remains.

The foundation stone of the Hospital was laid by the King in person on February 17th, 1682, attended by a great number of his courtiers. Sir Christopher Wren designed the intended structure, and, in addition to his connection therewith as architect, he was appointed to be one of the three Commissioners for the government of the Institution (and thus unhampered in the carrying out of his designs), the other two being Sir Stephen Fox, a Lord of the Treasury, and the Earl of Ranelagh, Paymaster-General. They were directed to draw up the rules, and consider "what was proper to be done."

The first thing proper to be done was to find money, for the voluntary donations would quickly be exhausted. As the public generally had failed to come with sufficient liberality to the assistance of the King, he determined to turn to the Army itself for support. This was given or obtained by a fixed deduction from the pay, by the contribution of a day's pay in the year from officers and soldiers, by a percentage on the sale and purchase of commissions, and so on. The mine thus opened proved sufficient, and in ten years the Hospital was completed at an expense of about 150,000*l.* Not a penny came from Parliamentary votes.



THE CHAPEL

Thus is explained the remarks of the Rev. G. R. Gleig (who, from being a combatant officer in the Peninsular War, and in America, where he was wounded, took Holy Orders, and became Chaplain of Chelsea Hospital and Chaplain-General of the Forces), in his "Traditions of Chelsea College:"—

"Within the walls of Chelsea Hospital the veteran has, indeed, nothing to complain of. But why? Because the establishment is his own, built by his own or his predecessors' money, supported out of funds which the nation never gave, and not, therefore, but for an error in policy which never ought to have been committed, depending in any degree upon the liberality of Parliament."

The remarks, though correct on the whole, need qualification. Parliament has for a long time been free from reproach in its treatment of the worn-out soldier, and Chelsea Hospital, drawing at the present day from the Votes 25,000*l.* a year for its internal support, and nearly two millions of pounds for its body of Out-Pensioners, is an evidence of public liberality which probably no other nation in the

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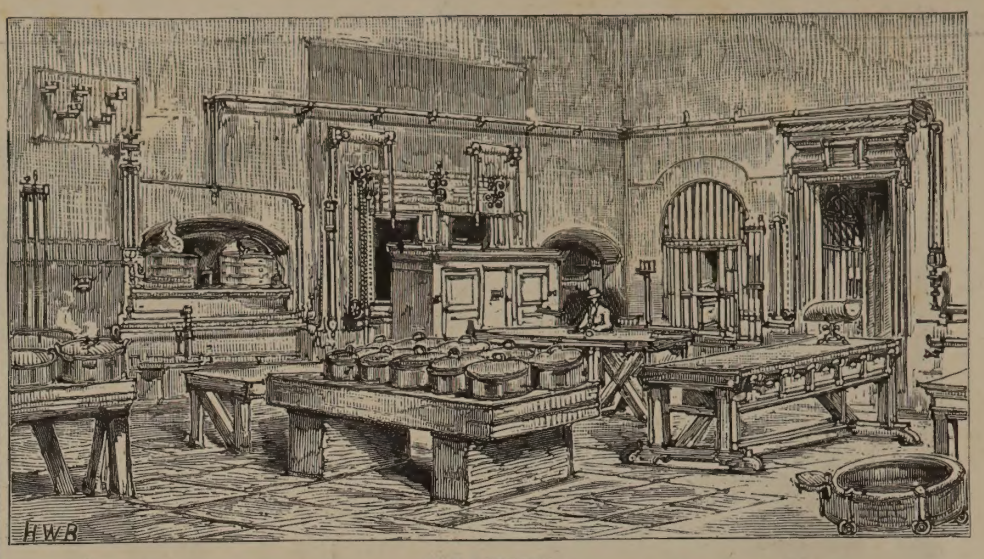
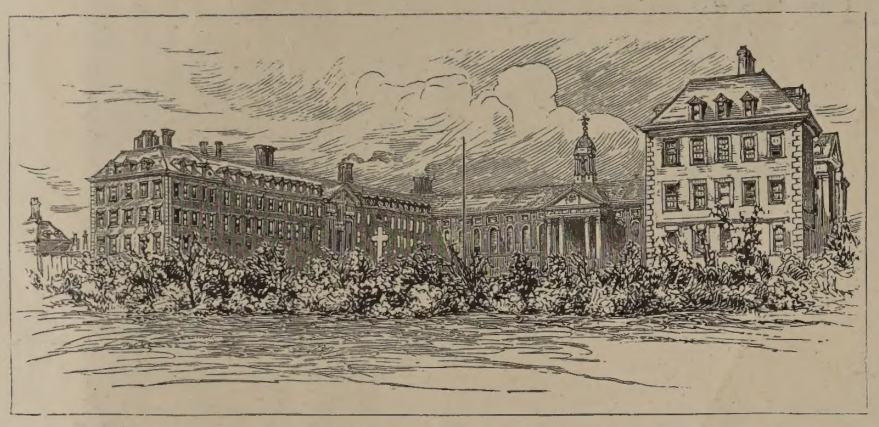
THE GREAT HALL AS A DAY-ROOM

CHELSEA HOSPITAL ILLUSTRATED

STAIRCASE TO WARDS



THE KITCHEN



VIEW FROM THE RIVER

world can exhibit. The Hospital, however, does not cost anything like 25,000*l.* a year, as the In-Pensioners surrendered their out-pensions, and some of the charges are not for their support.

The Hospital was opened in 1692. The writer has in his possession a print of it, bearing date a few years later, and it appears very much what it now is. A few outlying additions have been made, but the general elevation and outlines remain unaltered. It was designed to accommodate about 450 soldiers, in hopes that no greater number would offer for admission, but this proved a serious miscalculation. The ten years occupied in building brought to light many more expectants than had been anticipated, and when the structure was completed there were at least 100 men whose claims were as urgent as any, but who could not be admitted. To these an allowance in money was given, pending future vacancies, and in this temporary allowance the Out-Pension System, which has since grown to such proportions, had its origin. The Standing Army of 8,700 men now numbers 250,000 in times of peace, the 100 Out-Pensioners have grown to 85,000.

Had this enormous growth been foreseen, Chelsea Hospital would not have been built. The idea of collecting into one building such a vast number, or any considerable proportion of it, would have been preposterous, and hence the question has often been asked in modern years, What is the object of maintaining this Hospital?

The object has altered with the altered circumstances. A home originally intended for all decayed soldiers meriting a provision by past services has come to be the hospice for a select few, to whom an allowance in money could not bring, without co-operation, the comforts in housing, food, nursing, medical attentions, and other consolations befitting a British soldier in his declining days.

In civil life, our community founds and maintains at munificent cost refuges for the blind, the paralytic, the epileptic, and incurables from other causes. Considering the hardships of a soldier's life in extreme climates, and the effects on his constitution of diseases thus acquired, it may be readily inferred that in his days of decadence he must show an undue proportion of these evils of humanity, and that out of 85,000 men a vast number will be found to whom a home like Chelsea Hospital brings advantages beyond money value. Every year, therefore, it tends to become a Hospital or Infirmary merely, and a rigid refusal to admit within its walls any men who present no claims from extreme affliction will alone justify the foundation in the present day, and enhance its value. Many old men who have outlived domestic relations, and are unfitted to be of use to themselves or others, will doubtless be only too glad to smoke their pipe of peace in the society of old comrades in a comfortable place with not too much barrack discipline, but however desirable it may be to reward these veterans in every way, actual physical suffering deserves priority of relief. The statistics of the present condition of the Hospital appear to show that these considerations have their weight with the governing body, and they cannot be too much enforced.

We do not propose in these columns to give more than a general description of the arrangements of the institution, but before coming to the pensioners themselves a walk round the gardens (which are freely open to every one) and the leading portions of the building (which are civilly shown by an attendant pensioner at the entrance) will be a good preliminary. J. D.

(To be continued)

A STROLL IN THE GARDENS

CHELSEA HOSPITAL, II.

THE PORTICO, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST

THE GARDENS cover a space of about sixty-six acres, constituting a minor London park, resting on the river embankment, and extending to the King's Road. Portions cannot be said to be ornamental, but the space between the Hospital building and the river is pretty, that enclosed as the Terrace sumptuously so, gradually elevated in parterres, and profuse in flowers. The south-eastern part, known as the Ranelagh Gardens, is, however, the most interesting, being skilfully planned by one who must have been an artistic gardener, and admirably kept. The name Ranelagh Gardens is proper to the place, being the very spot on which the Ranelagh Rotunda stood, where so much gaiety prevailed towards the end of the last century. It was acquired by the Hospital on the failure of that speculation. Visitors are particularly attracted here by the plots, 140 in number, allotted to so many pensioners for their amusement in cultivation, where they continue to produce vegetables and flowers, to be disposed of for their own profit to the multitudinous visitors thronging here in the summer season. It is said that Lord John Russell, when Chairman of the Board of the Hospital, planned this industry to give agreeable occupation to the old men, and keep them from street temptations. The occupation it certainly does give, and their pockets profit as well. It is believed that many pounds in the year are received for the produce of single plots, but the prices are fanciful—"Anything you please," flavoured by a short yarn, being the element of appreciation. The purchasers do not regret the extra liberality shown to the fine old honest face of the vendor, and the interest of the military prowess related without additional charge—

> Wept o'er his wounds, or tales of sorrow done,
> Shouldered his crutch, and showed how fields were won.

The remarks just made about the physical incapacity of the pensioners raise a doubt as to the existence of 140 amongst them capable of cultivating the smallest allotment of ground, but it is found on inquiry that many men have more plots than one, and that others pay pensioners for tilling their plots, and that few amongst the new comers think of undertaking the work at all. Therefore these little gardens have probably seen their best days.

The plot of ground known as Burton's Court will during the present year be the scene of a new feature in the military usefulness of the Hospital, and of its attractions for the public. It seems a curious blot in Army arrangements, that London, of all garrison stations, has hitherto possessed no space appropriated to cricket and other athletic sports, for the physical development and mental recreation of the soldiers, of whom about 5,000 are located in the London garrison. This defect the Commissioners of the Hospital have resolved to remedy. As their lands were purchased for the most part by the contributions of the Army, it has been deemed just that the Army should profit to the greatest extent from the enjoyment, and, therefore, Burton's Court will be prepared for military sports, where the soldiers can have cricket, football, running matches, and other games. A large sum of money is being expended for the creation of the proper surface, a canteen will be provided, and military bands will play on stated occasions. The pensioners will have seats from which the amusements can be witnessed, and thus the two generations of military life will come together for their mutual association and sympathy. The effect on the habits of the soldier, thus drawn away from the evil attractions of other places, ought to be considerable, and the enlivenment of the place will make the Hospital more enjoyable by the pensioners.

Before leaving the Gardens it may be well to state that the original twenty-eight acres grew by degrees to sixty-six by purchase from Hospital funds, and that as the several acquisitions had varied titles an Act of Parliament passed a few years ago confirmed the title of the whole estate by conveying the fee simple to the Commissioners of the Hospital *in trust for the pensioners*, who may, therefore, look on every inch as their own property. The grounds are kept in order from the pensioners' funds also, not from public funds, and consequently the inhabitants of Chelsea, and other visitors, owe to them the privilege enjoyed of using the place for air and recreation.

The Cemetery is not now used, the deceased pensioners finding their final rest in the West London Cemetery on the Fulham Road, where a section of land is reserved for the purpose. The Hospital Cemetery has many fine tombs, erected to deceased officers, and there are some curious inscriptions on the stones placed over pensioners' graves. Probably the strangest reads as follows, or did read, for it is no longer easily decipherable :—

"Here rests William Hiseland, a veteran if ever soldier was, who merited well a pension, if long service be a merit, having served upwards of the days of man; ancient but not superannuated. Engaged in a series of wars, civil as well as foreign, yet not maimed or worn out by either, his complexion was fresh and florid, his health hale and hearty, his memory exact and ready; in stature he excelled the military size, in strength he surpassed the prime of youth; and, what rendered his age still more patriarchal, when above an hundred years old he took

BLACK JACKS

PENSIONERS AT PLAY—"SPANISH POLO"

MENDING HIS CLOTHES

unto himself a wife. Read, fellow soldiers, and reflect that there is a spiritual warfare as well as a warfare temporal. Born VI. of August, 1620; died VII. of February, 1732; aged 112."

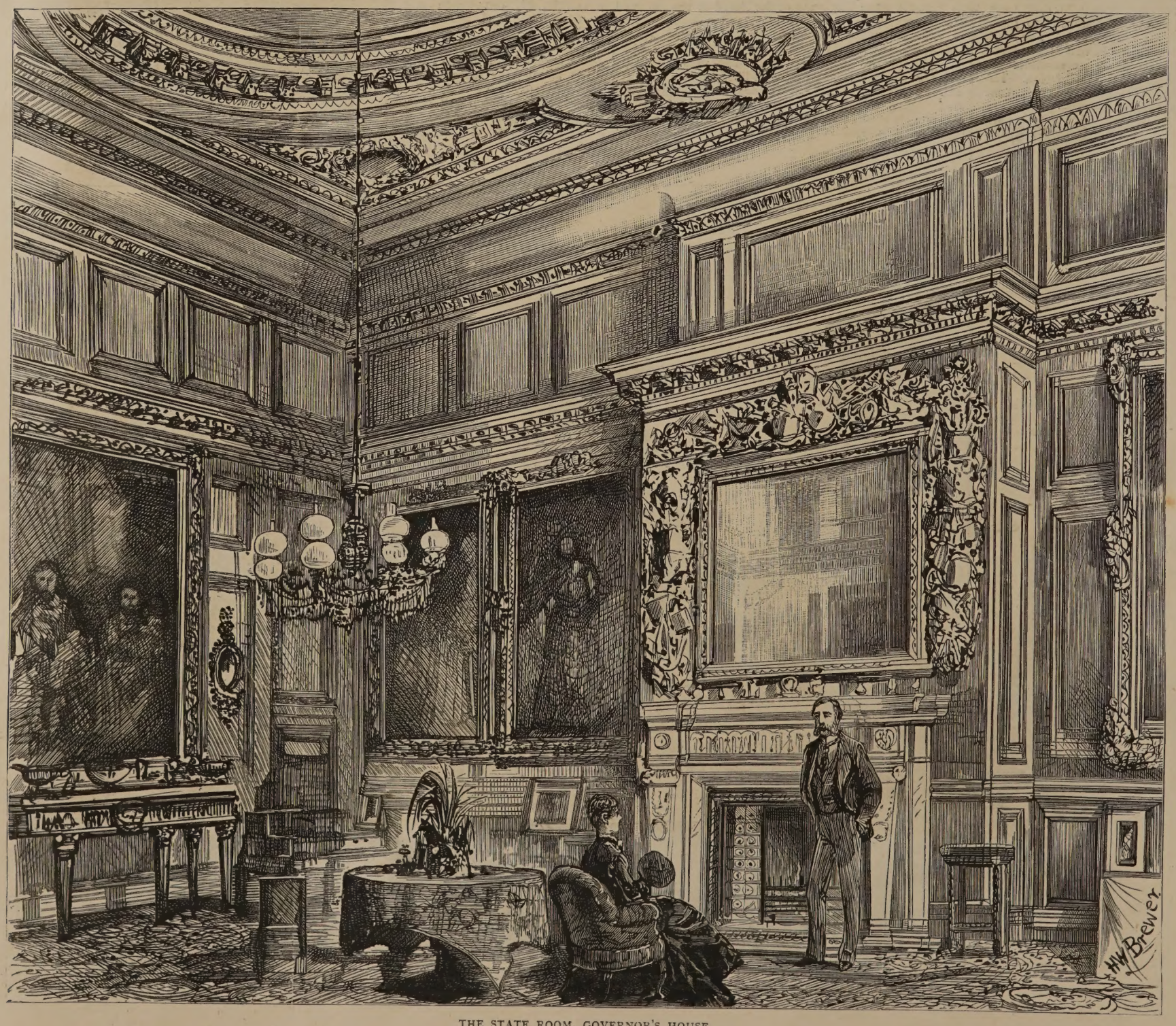
Passing to the buildings, the first to attract attention on entering under the Cupola are the Chapel on the left hand and the Great Hall on the right. These noble apartments are of almost equal size—110 feet by 38, and equal height—but the ceiling of the former being arched, and of the latter flat, give an enlarged look to the Hall.

The Chapel is seated for about 300 pensioners, with pews all round by the wall on three sides for the officers and their families. In the semi-dome at the Altar-end is a large painting of the Resurrection, by Sebastian Ricci, not well seen, owing to insufficient light, and from contrast with too much light throughout the Chapel generally. The railings before the Altar and the wainscot compartments on each side are richly carved by Grinling Gibbons. At the other end of the Chapel is the Organ Gallery, the mouldings of which are carved in a similar style. The great feature of the Chapel is the collection of eagles and flags taken in war suspended between the windows on each side, and from the Organ Gallery. There are thirteen French eagles and forty-two flags—French, American, and East Indian. These flags and eagles were removed to the Hospital in the year 1835, by order of King William IV., from the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, and the India House. Considering their ages, many nearly 100 years, the flags are in good preservation, the devices and inscriptions being legible on many, though not much colour remains. Many have recently received a new lease of life through the kind attention of the Hon. Lady Grant, who has spent freely both time and money in preserving them from dissolution. Some flags were taken at Waterloo, some earlier (French Republican) in Egypt, and, earlier still, some of the East Indian flags were taken at Seringapatam in 1799. Of the eagles, four were taken in Martinique in 1809, one in Guadaloupe in 1810, one at Barossa in 1811, two at Salamanca in 1812, two at Waterloo, and three at different places in the Peninsula.

The scene of Professor Herkomer's well-known picture "The Last Muster" is at the organ end of the Chapel, all the pensioners having been painted from life, at separate sittings, in his studio. This picture had been anticipated by earlier studies of some of the pensioners, by the same artist, in the pages of this journal.

The Great Hall was for a long time the pensioners' Dining Hall, but the practice of dining together was abandoned, meals being now served in the wards, where the pensioners form messes of twelve each. The tables and benches remain in the Hall, differently arranged. This apartment, like the Chapel, is hung with flags, but, unlike those in the Chapel, little remains save the poles and shreds. Round the walls are portraits of military commanders, chronologically arranged according to campaigns, lettered and dated underneath. At the end is a large allegorical painting, by Verrio, of Charles II., surrounded by emblematical figures, with the Hospital in the background. The Hall is now used as a general day-room, where the pensioners smoke, read the news—there being a plentiful supply of papers—chat, and play games.

The next part of the building to attract attention is the most important of all—the galleries, or, as the pensioners call them, wards, where they have separately their homes for sleeping, for privacy in waking hours, and their little belongings. "Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long," is well exemplified in the cases of these old fellows, whose requirements are no longer shared by kith or kin, and who cannot look forward to their enduring long. There are sixteen of these galleries, each about 200 feet long and 18 feet wide. A corridor, 12 feet wide, runs the entire length, and off the corridor are twenty-six cubicles, each 6 feet square, constituting the pensioners' berths. They are separated, closed in, and backed by wainscot oak, open at the top, with doors opening into the corridor, and windows closed by curtains. Within the cubicle is a comfortable bed of hair, lying on a straw mattress, a small table, and space for a chair, with a box for clothes, &c., under the bed. The back and sides are hung with such pictures and ornaments as the occupier has taste to provide. In the corridors are dining-tables for the separate messes, and large stoves, with boilers, where food may be prepared, extra to the regulated ration, or the ration itself reheated or cooked in a secondary form by those desiring it. Sergeants in charge of the wards have enlarged cubicles at each end, and there is a room for the nurse whose duty it is to keep the ward clean, look after the linen for laundry, and keep it in repair. In the cubicle the pensioner sleeps at night, takes his siesta, and reads or works in different petty ways according to his bent. No smoking is allowed here, no lights are permitted, save from gas pendants, no music or noise calculated to annoy, and no



THE STATE ROOM, GOVERNOR'S HOUSE

CHELSEA HOSPITAL ILLUSTRATED

SUNDAY MORNING—COMING OUT OF CHAPEL

CHELSEA HOSPITAL ILLUSTRATED

SLEEPING BERTHS IN A WARD

pets, save birds and a cat. Flowers are tended at the windows. A general inspection of the berths is made by the proper officer, and a periodical overhauling for insects, but these are not often found, the pensioners vieing with each other in the cleanliness of their little homes. We asked one fine old fellow what he liked best in the whole establishment, and he at once replied the bed, for he never in his experience possessed a hair bed before. Another man being asked whether he would like to leave, on a liberal out-pension, said he might not mind if permitted to take the bed. Only pensioners in tolerable health are found in these wards, those requiring special medical care being located in the Infirmary. There are minor wards, with varying numbers of berths, but similar in general character.

THE CELLARS

The Infirmary has beds for a hundred men, but it is necessary to supplement them by accommodation in an outer ward for fifteen or twenty more. These are usually all occupied, and urgent cases for admission press out those men who have made partial recoveries from more severe symptoms. The Infirmary is managed as such institutions usually are by the medical officers, who prescribe from day to day the food, drink, and general treatment for each man, and who have a staff of nurses, orderlies, cooks, and other servants exclusively for this purpose. Here the very old, and, of course, the very feeble, are mostly to be found, and the mortality is very great—an average of sixty or seventy men dying each year—from the infirmities of old age in the majority of cases. In the Great Kitchen the food for all the men not located in the Infirmary is prepared, cut up into messes for twelve men to each mess, and carried in covered hot dishes to their wards. There is a Bakery where all the bread is produced, this being the only item of food not supplied under contract; a Laundry, where all the washing of the Hosiptal is done, baths, and other subsidiary departments.

The Library is a very fine apartment, containing 4,000 volumes, besides books of reference, current magazines, and newspapers. Separate supplies of newspapers are issued to the Infirmary and Great Hall. The pensioners read in the Library, or borrow the books for perusal in their wards. The number so borrowed averages about a hundred a week. New additions to the Library are made annually. Novels are in most request, but religious and moral works are also in demand.

There are quarters for the Governor, Lieut.-Governor, Adjutant, Quartermaster, and six Captains. Also for the Chaplain, Medical Officers, and some non-commissioned officers. But no further allusion need be made to these private dwellings. In the Governor's House, however, is a noble apartment which used to be termed the Council Chamber, and is now known as the State Room. Its dimensions are 37 by 27 feet, and 27 feet high. The Council or Board of the Hospital was originally held in this room, but there is a separate Board Room now. The members of the Royal Family were received here, and are still, the present Governor having had the honour of receiving many of them on different occasions. The room is furnished at the public expense, and richly decorated, the ceiling in compartments, with Royal ciphers of Charles II., James II., and William and Mary. Over the fireplace and doorways are rich carvings of trophies by Grinling Gibbons, and the walls are hung with a valuable collection of Royal portraits, by Van Dyck, Lely, Kneller, A. Ramsay, and others, and there is one of our present Gracious Sovereign after Winterhalter.

The establishment of In-Pensioners consists of 539 men, and about twelve staff sergeants. They are selected, as previously stated, from the Out-Pensioners, and as a rule from those resident in Great Britain. Every Out-Pensioner is made acquainted with the regulations for admission. Candidates must in the first place be of good character as soldiers, and must have maintained it since discharge from the Army. They must be over fifty-five years of age, and be incapable of adding to their out-pensions by labour or other industry. Some may be admitted under this age, if suffering from wounds or disease caused by service as soldiers, and similarly incapacitated for labour. They must have neither wife nor child depending upon them for support. Vacancies are filled so soon as created from a roll of candidates passed by the Commissioners for Admission, and the Hospital is thus always full. They give up their out-pensions on admission, but can at any time resume them by leaving the Hospital.

From statistics recently published, the average age of the 539 men was 63 years. Five were about 85 years, 12 others above 80, 48 above 75, 76 above 70, and 172 between 60 and 70 years. A medical return showed that 22 were blind, 40 paralysed, 99 suffering from bronchitis, and almost all the others from disease of some form, besides old age.

They are classed for in-pension purposes (not according to Army rank) as privates of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class, drummers, corporals, sergeants, and colour-sergeants, and the money allowance issued to them for tobacco, &c., varies according to class, from 1*s.* a day as colour-sergeants, to 1*d.* as privates of the lowest class. Every man who is able to assist others by light attentions gets this employment with remuneration, and the little gardens noticed in another column afford pocket-money to many.

The diet consists of cocoa, with bread and butter in the morning, and tea, with bread and butter, in the evening; for dinner, mutton on five days, beef on the sixth, and either beef or bacon on the remaining day. The allowance of meat is 13oz., and of bread one pound. Mutton broth, potatoes, green vegetables, and puddings are also included in the dietary. The Commissioners contract for best food only, and the officers have absolute powers of rejecting. Whether the pensioners are all content with the quality need not be stated. Who is, at all times, in the best regulated private houses? And grumbling is the old soldiers' right as well as the civilians'. One thing is certain, the public wish them to be well fed, and the Commissioners of the Hospital have an equally strong desire to make them comfortable. For malt drink, every man receives at least a pint of porter or beer daily. The food and drink in the Infirmary vary according to the physician's orders, from day to day.

The colour of the uniform coat is red in summer, blue in winter, trousers blue. Cocked hats are worn with full uniform, forage caps at other times.

The discipline enforced is of the lightest kind. The pensioners are not allowed to leave their berths before six o'clock in the morning; they are required to rise before breakfast, which is at eight o'clock, unless excused by indisposition reported to the sergeant of the ward. The Great Hall is opened immediately after breakfast, and remains open, save during dinner hour, until 8.30 P.M. Dinner at 1 o'clock; tea at 4 o'clock. Any later refection is a *rechauffé* of the remains of the dinner, &c., prepared by men individually. Retirement to the wards for the night at 9 o'clock in winter, and 9.30 in summer. But leave is freely given to any one to remain out to a later hour, or even to absent himself for the whole night if he wishes. A list of such permits is posted in the Guard House at the main gate, and checked off as the men return. Absence without leave is an irregularity, and is recorded. Punishment for irregularities, for excess in drink, &c., consists for the most part in confinement within the gates, and the wearing of full-dress, but expulsion (followed by resumption of out-pension) would be ordered in a very bad case.

The Hospital is under the charge of a body of Royal Commissioners, appointed by Letters Patent. They are all *ex-officio*, and represent the War Office, the Horse-Guards, the Treasury, and Chelsea Hospital itself in the persons of the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor. The Commissioners admit pensioners, appoint under-officers, arrange contracts for food and clothing, and make general regulations for all services. But the discipline of the Hospital, and all that more immediately concerns the regulation and comfort of the men individually, appertain to the Governor. Appointment to this office is always conferred on a retired general officer of great distinction, and is one of the most signal marks of the favour of the Sovereign. As in the case of the present Governor, Sir Patrick Grant, the dignity of Field Marshal not seldom follows. He is the father of the pensioners in their second childhood, and there are few who do not look up to the present Governor as a son would to a sympathetic parent. He visits them at their bedsides in the infirmary, talks to them almost as familiars, and soothes their sufferings by kind words of hope and fellow-feeling. The Highland Celt feels his pain forgotten when addressed in the Gaelic, and dreams again of "Scotia's woods and waterfalls." And the Irish Celt comes in for sympathy, perhasp more weakly expressed from difference of dialect, but not less warmly felt.

Chelsea Hospital, locally, is the home we have described for a limited body, but as the centre of out-pensions it is the headquarters of an army. As stated already, there are not less than 85,000 Out-Pensioners, every one of whom has received his award from this body of Commissioners. It seems strange, at first sight, that Her Majesty's Secretary of State or Her Majesty's Government cannot grant a military pension to a soldier, though they pension his officers and the members of all other public services. But so it is. According to law, no one but the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital can grant a pension to a soldier. The Government may appoint the Commissioners, and may issue general rules for their guidance, but only the Commissioners can apply these rules to the individual cases of soldiers. They scrutinise his service, his character, his wounds or diseases, and determine on the reward to be assigned to him, within the limits allowed by Parliament. They have extensive powers over him after he is pensioned, and can reduce or take away his allowance for just cause, and they can also increase it for sufficient reasons. The principal advantage of this independence of the Commissioners is, perhaps, the consequent freedom of the pension system from political influence; and the next advantage is, that soldiers have more confidence in being dealt with by gentlemen of high station, most of whom have commanded in the field, than by civilians of whom they know nothing. In the order of change, the propriety of the system has been often questioned, but, after inquiry, has been left undisturbed.

(Concluded on page 154)